

RECOGNIZING HUGO'S

• Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, the city of Portland, ME, is quickly becoming one of America's most recognized locations for five-star dining experiences. Recognized as the 2009 "Foodiest Small Town in America" by Bon Appétit, it has been reported that visitors and residents alike spend more money in Portland restaurants per capita than in any other U.S. city, with the exception of San Francisco and New York. The demand for delicious, well-prepared food has drawn a plethora of culinary artists to the city, inspired by both the challenge of cooking for an avid audience and incorporating the bounty of Maine's natural resources into their recipes. Using native ingredients such as corn, blueberries, fiddleheads, and off-the-dock seafood, Portland restaurants have transformed even casual dining into something brilliant. As such, today I wish to recognize Hugo's, one of the many restaurants that has been an integral part of this lively city's culinary renaissance.

Hugo's is among the restaurants that stay true to the Portland tradition of local and organic food. As a member of the Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association, Hugo's is active in increasing local food production and simultaneously supporting other Maine small businesses. Working with these organic ingredients, Hugo's puts a modern twist on American cuisine with various international influences. They produce imaginative dishes that make the restaurant not only a favorite to the locals, but also to out-of-town "foodies" looking for an elegant meal as well.

Chef Rob Evans, the driving force behind Hugo's turned his restaurant job into a career after he landed positions at the famed Inn at Little Washington in Virginia and French Laundry in California, studying under some of the best chefs in the world. In 2000, Chef Evans took over the former Hugo's Portland Bistro with his wife, Nancy Pugh. Soon Hugo's became distinguished as one of the top restaurants in Maine, as well as throughout New England.

Indeed, Chef Evans's culinary creativity has not gone unnoticed by both his peers and others in the industry. In 2004 Food & Wine Magazine recognized him with the "Best New Chef Award." Hugo's has also been given the Four-Diamond title by the American Automobile Association, or AAA, for the past 5 years. Most notably, Chef Evans was named the recipient last year of the James Beard Award, arguably one of the most coveted honors in the culinary world, as the best chef in the Northeast.

Since receiving the award, traffic at Hugo's has significantly increased, with more locals intrigued by what Chef Evans can do with the resources that make Maine the unique place that it is. But even with an uptick in new patrons, Chef Evans insists that Hugo's will stay the same and not forget its humble origins.

Additionally, Chef Evans and his wife Nancy are also the proud owners of Duckfat, another popular restaurant situated just down the street from Hugo's serving European fries and sandwiches. Duckfat, whose name derives from the manner in which they cook their fries, is yet another example of Evans' and Pugh's efforts to promote all that Maine's restaurant industry has to offer.

Hugo's is an excellent representative of a trend in Maine's dining culture that showcases a wide variety of exciting, creative chefs and restaurants eager to put Maine on the map when it comes to food. The initiatives of Rob Evans and Nancy Pugh have helped foster a revitalization of Portland's restaurant scene, and I commend them for their outstanding work. I thank everyone at both Hugo's and Duckfat, and wish them much success in their future endeavors.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mrs. Neiman, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:37 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 415. An act to provide Capitol-flown flags to the immediate family of fire fighters, law enforcement officers, emergency medical technicians, and other rescue workers who are killed in the line of duty.

H.R. 2780. An act to correct and simplify the drafting of section 1752 (relating to restricted buildings or grounds) of title 18, United States Code.

H.R. 4748. An act to amend the Office of National Drug Control Policy Reauthorization Act of 2006 to require a northern border counternarcotics strategy, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5138. An act to protect children from sexual exploitation by mandating reporting requirements for convicted sex traffickers and other registered sex offenders against minors intending to engage in international travel, providing advance notice of intended travel by high interest registered sex offenders outside the United States to the government of the country of destination, requesting foreign governments to notify the United States when a known child sex offender is seeking to enter the United States, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5143. An act to establish the National Criminal Justice Commission.

H.R. 5281. An act to amend title 28, United States Code, to clarify and improve certain provisions relating to the removal of litigation against Federal officers or agencies to Federal courts, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5662. An act to amend title 18, United States Code, with respect to the offense of stalking.

H.R. 5681. An act to improve certain administrative operations of the Library of Congress, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5682. An act to improve the operations of certain facilities and programs of the House of Representatives, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5730. An act to rescind earmarks for certain surface transportation projects.

H.R. 5810. An act to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide penalties for aiming laser pointers at airplanes, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5825. An act to review, update, and revise the factors to measure the severity, magnitude, and impact of a disaster and to evaluate the need for assistance to individuals and households.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution:

H. Con. Res. 258. Concurrent resolution congratulating the Commandant of the Coast Guard and the Superintendent of the Coast Guard Academy and its staff for 100 years of operation of the Coast Guard Academy in New London, Connecticut, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The message further announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 5849. An act to provide for an additional temporary extension of programs under the Small Business Act and the Small Business Investment Act of 1958, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that pursuant to section 201(B) of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6431), and the order of the House of January 6, 2009, the Speaker announces the following correction to the appointment of June 23, 2010, of the following member on the part of the House of Representatives to the Commission on International Religious Freedom, upon the recommendation of the Minority Leader: Mr. Ted Van Der Meid of Rochester, New York, for a two-year term ending May 14, 2012, to succeed Ms. Felice Gaer.

At 3:59 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House recedes from its amendment to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 4899) making emergency supplemental appropriations for disaster relief and summer jobs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the House agrees to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 4899) making emergency supplemental appropriations for disaster relief and summer jobs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes.

At 6:47 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks,